

WILLIAM AND CHRISTINA CARLILE GILES



Among the first to come to this lovely valley were William Giles and Christina Carlile. He was about 16 years of age when he came to this valley and she was a little girl of nine. She arrived here in 1858, and he came in 1859; so, of course, they and their families were very close friends, because they were sharing all the hardships of pioneer life in a new and rugged country. It isn't at all surprising that this wonderful couple found their friendship developing into a beautiful romance. In fact, they were the first couple from Heber to go to Salt Lake City to be married in the Endowment House. This happened on June 13, 1868. Thirteen children came to bless

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

their home. They shared the joy of having this large family and also the sorrow of burying five of their babies in infancy. They had crossed the plains as children and had lived in primitive settlements where Indians, starvation and hardship had been constant hazards to happiness and peace of mind.

Religion played a major role in this household. Both William and Christina were faithful and active in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The children of patient and kind William recall how he would take them in the wagon out to the fields and would sing Church hymns along the way. His favorite seemed to be "God Moves in a Mysterious Way." At that time testimony meetings were held on Thursday afternoon and regardless of what part of the field they might be in or what important work they might be doing, their father always brought them back to attend services. Their mother had set them a fine example of faith when she was only 11 years old and bravely went down to Spring Creek to be baptized on the 1st day of March, 1860. Even though she had to walk the distance home with her clothing frozen to her, she was happy. In fact, she often said, "I was never happier in my life."

All was not sad and doleful in this household. Even now members of this family fondly recall their fun-loving parents and the wonderful "house parties" that were held at their home. Some friend or neighbor would just drop in and say, "Roll up the rugs, Christie, we'll be here in a little while for a party." And, true to the word, within an hour or so the house would be ringing with music and laughter as joyous couples danced and whirled about the "parlor," full skirts flying and fanning the small children as they slept or watched from the improvised benches around the room. Oh, they were wonderful times, filled with love and neighborliness. Even some of the grandchildren remember how exciting it was.

Christina, or "Aunt Christie," as she was fondly called, was a good cook and a sumptuous meal could be prepared for anyone at a moment's notice. She played a big part in preparing the banquets which were held to feed the Indians. In this the community was following the good advice of President Young. These banquets paved the

HEBER BIOGRAPHIES

371

way for the peace treaties which saved this valley a great deal of bloodshed.

William was busy through the years helping with construction of roads and buildings and applying his mechanical know-how to getting the community machinery, such as threshing machines and binders, to run and keep running. He helped in the construction of the Wasatch Stake Tabernacle and built some of the benches which are still in use there, also many lovely homes in this valley still stand as monuments to his ability as a carpenter. These things he did in addition to operating his farm.

After only 27 short years of marriage he was called to depart this life and Christy was again to know the hardship of having to make her own way and care for her growing family. Her task was no doubt made much easier by her children, who helped in every way they possibly could.

About three years after the death of her husband a goitre, which had appeared on her neck just four years after her marriage, began to be very troublesome. It began to get larger, very hard, and black. It continued to get worse until she finally had to give up and go to bed. Everything had been done for it that was then known, but it continuously grew worse. The evening of her third day in bed, Patriarch Thomas Hicken was ushered into her room. She welcomed him warmly and asked him if he would please administer to her. He informed her that he had been milking his cows and had been inspired to come immediately and give her a blessing. He blessed her and left the home. He notified Patriarch John Duke of "Aunt Christie's" serious illness and he came down that same evening and gave her a blessing also. On Sunday morning, Brother Fred Giles came to call very early and "Aunt Christy" requested that he take her name to circle meeting. He told her that he wanted to do just that and had come to ask her permission. As soon as he left, she turned over and knelt in her bed as best she could and in fervent prayer dedicated herself to the Lord. Then she slept and dreamed that she was standing on the south side of her home with her dear husband standing on her right-hand side, and every vestige of the goitre had disappeared. She awoke with a feeling that she had only a very short

time to live. Then she fell asleep again and dreamed the same thing again. However, when she awoke it was with a different feeling and she called her eldest son, William, to her and said, "Will, would you be surprised if this goitre leaves my neck?" He answered that he would, but she assured him with great conviction that it had already begun to disappear. Within a week she was healed and all of the swelling and pain had left. "Aunt Christy" told this story to everyone who ever talked with her. With gratitude in her heart and conviction in her voice, she would always say, "I know it was through the power of God that I was healed and that has been a strengthening power added to the testimony I already had, and also to all who saw the hand of God made manifest."